

# **anteros**

(requited love)

**Sizwe Buthelezi**

Sizwe Buthelezi

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Sizwe Buthelezi

## **dedication**

to those who paid a price for loving us.

**grudges**

i understand that you were just a  
lost soul roaming around and  
troubled. i also understand you had  
to lose me to find yourself, i hold  
no grudges.

i hold no grudges because i finally  
understand that you took the  
blood that came from my bleeding  
heart and wrote your perfect love  
story with someone else.

most importantly, i hold no grudges  
because i know that wherever you  
are, you're happy and that is enough.

#0b1

i have found peace in  
loving myself,  
in knowing that i am  
enough.

**choose yourself**

when the time comes when you  
have to choose between you or  
them, i hope you choose yourself.

i hope you choose yourself because  
you've been choosing them for a  
long time and it's enough.  
it's time to meet yourself and bond  
a little.

choose yourself first because you  
deserve to put yourself first in any  
occasion, to fully understand your  
inner self before you can go out  
and battle with their demons.

choose yourself because it's the  
right thing to do. you've got a lot of  
unfinished business with your old  
and rusted self. do this for you, not  
for them.

#0b10

how can it be freedom when  
you're not beside me, resting  
in my heart? instead,  
it feels like i'm trapped in a  
cage of worn, ancient and  
decayed memories – memories  
that belong to us.

**freedom**

it's a common misconception that freedom means being alone and unattached. but true freedom is actually having the ability to choose who we want to be with and be able to express our feelings and emotions without fear of judgment or rejection.

being apart from someone we love can feel like being trapped in a cage of old memories and missed opportunities. however, it's important to remember that those memories are still ours to cherish, and that the love we shared still exists even when we're not physically together.

so, while it may not feel like freedom at the moment, holding onto those memories and cherishing the love we shared is what will ultimately set us free. because even if we can't be together right now, the love we have for each other will always be there, rusted memories and all.

#0b11

you've been broken so  
many times.  
yet here you are, just as  
happy and undefeated.

**undefeated**

despite the challenges and  
setbacks you have experienced,  
you continue to persevere and  
maintain a positive attitude.

your ability to overcome adversity  
is a testament to your strength  
and determination. remember  
that it's okay to feel broken and  
vulnerable at times,  
but never lose sight of your  
worth and the incredible things  
you're capable of achieving.

your spirit has weathered countless  
storms, yet it remains unbroken,  
radiant, and undefeated. keep  
shining bright and never give up  
on yourself.

#0b100

had the stars whispered of  
your fleeting stay,  
i would've kissed you harder.

## love choices

love is a complex emotion that can be difficult to understand, for both ourselves and for those around us.

some may judge or criticize our romantic choices, but it's important to remember that everyone's journey is unique and valid. so, it is perfectly natural for others to have their own opinions and judgments about your love life, but ultimately, it is up to you to decide what is best for you.

we should never feel ashamed because of who we love or how we express our love. instead, we should embrace our differences and celebrate the diversity of love in all its forms.

what matters most is that we find happiness and fulfillment in our relationships, regardless of what others may think or say. so, let us love boldly and without fear, knowing that our love life may not make sense to some people, but that's okay.

#0b101

if destiny granted me another  
chance in this life, i'd love you  
endlessly,  
with a love that's bolder and  
brighter, love that's truer and  
better.

**walls**

it's understandable that you may  
feel hesitant to let someone in  
after experiencing hurt or betrayal.  
however,  
it's important to remember that.  
people are not the same. there are  
people out there who genuinely  
care about you and want to see you  
happy. it may take time and effort  
but don't give up.

opening up to others can be scary,  
but it can also be incredibly  
rewarding. when you allow yourself  
to be vulnerable, you create space  
for deeper connections and  
understanding. it's okay to take things  
slow and set boundaries to protect  
yourself, but don't let fear hold you  
back from experiencing the joy of  
genuine human connection.

remember, you are worthy of love  
and support. don't let past experiences  
rob you of the opportunity to form  
meaningful relationships. keep an  
open mind and heart, and trust that  
the right people will find their way  
into your life.

#0b110

along with letting go of  
the love i have for you,  
i'm letting go of the  
pain you caused me.

**love slave**

you are eternally stuck with the  
pain of loving them.

pain of still wanting to hang on.  
pain of refusing to let go.  
pain that hits different than usual.

you want to let them go.  
you want to forget about them.  
you want to wake up free of  
their love chains.

some days you feel like you're  
being held a prisoner.  
you hate to miss them, but you  
miss them anyway.  
some days you see them in  
your dreams. some days you see  
them in every person you meet.

you feel like you're forced to  
miss them.  
forced to think about them,  
forced to feel them,  
forced to dream about them,  
forced to inhale them each time  
you draw breath from your lungs.

you patiently wait for better days,  
days where you'll be free from  
them.

#0b111

maybe it's time to finally  
let it out,  
all this anger and pain you  
have been absorbing over  
the years.  
all this hate you have kept  
contained within you.

**regrets**

if i had known that you were just a  
fleeting presence in my life,  
i would have savored every moment  
we shared together. i would have  
held you closer and kissed you harder,  
making sure that every second we  
spent together was filled with passion  
and love.

sadly, i did not know that our time  
together would be limited,  
and now all i can do is cherish the  
memories we made and hold onto the  
hope that someday our paths will  
cross again.

i will miss the way your lips felt on  
mine and the warmth of your embrace,  
and i will carry those moments within  
my heart forever.

#0b1000

my hope for you is that your  
loving spirit remains unbroken,  
and that you never let anyone  
dull your shine.

**when is the right time to walk away?**

you know it's time to walk away when  
you find yourself all alone,  
trembling and starting to doubt if this  
was all worth it in the first place.

the right time to walk away from  
people is when you have died countless  
times for them yet they see it as a sign  
of being desperate.

perfect time to leave?-is when the  
smile has become so hard to wear and  
your heart is slowly melting away in  
their lies.

the best time to walk away is when  
you're all ready to dance but the stage  
is gone. it is in the moment when all  
you can offer is loyalty but it is rewarded  
with lies and abuse, suddenly darkness  
becomes sweet and night has eyes to  
recognize its own.

so, it's okay to walk away because  
you're such a beautiful soul and anyone  
who does not see that does not deserve  
you.

#0b1001

i'm sorry you had to find  
out this way,  
that sometimes letting go  
is part of loving.

**society**

don't let them tell you what you  
should do or how you should  
dress. do not even allow  
them to tell you how you should  
walk.

don't allow society to control  
you, do what you feel like doing  
without any fear of being judged  
for who you are.

fuck the society and fuck anyone  
who will try to change you, you  
are beautiful this way.

#0b1010

dance with yourself if  
you have to,  
take your time and heal.

**moving on**

moving on from a past love can be a difficult and painful process.  
it's natural to feel a sense of loss and sadness when we let go of someone we cared for deeply.

moving on from someone you once loved is never easy. it takes time to heal and let go of the memories that once brought you so much joy.  
but with each passing day, the pain starts to fade, and you begin to realize that life can still be beautiful without them.

you learn to appreciate the little things and find happiness in the present moment. and one day, you wake up and realize that you no longer crave their love. you are content with who you are and the life you have built for yourself.

you're free to love again and start a new chapter in your life.

#0b1011

i too have suffered what you  
endure,  
this ache, this heavy burden.  
you're all you need, to heal.

**bleeding questions**

why do you keep on blaming  
yourself when all that you have  
ever done was to love?

why is it that you're the one  
who must always make sacrifices  
and compromises for the sake  
of a relationship that doesn't  
recognize you?

why is it that you're the only one  
who's doing the loving?

why do you keep on holding to  
love that was never present to  
begin with?

#0b1100

your love life will never  
make sense to some people  
and that is still okay.

**compromises**

you love without asking questions,  
you compromise sometimes.  
when your partner does something  
wrong you bite your lower lip and  
look the other way because love is all  
about compromises.

yet, it is much more beautiful when  
compromises are met on both sides,  
when it is not just one partner  
who gets to make all the sacrifices  
and compromises in a relationship.

there are countless times when they  
broke your heart and still you were  
the one who had to beg and apologize  
for it, for being a victim.

you have lost so much of yourself  
trying to compete with others for love  
that was never there to begin with.

all the patience you've shown, the  
number of times you had to give quick  
responses when they have gone days  
ignoring you.

i think you have tolerated enough.

#0b1101

dreaming about what  
we could've been if you  
never left.

**love mistakes**

you are stuck with the thought of guilt and self-blame. you have leaked so much of yourself to the wrong people and when you finally realized that you have made a mistake, it was too late.

mistakes will always be there, they are necessary for you to experience so that you will be able to grow and see things in a different way, to allow you to open your eyes and grab as many lessons as you can.

it is rather necessary that you accept your mistakes and move on. accepting your mistakes is not an easy thing but it is necessary for you to look beyond your failures and rise above them.

as much as accepting your mistakes is so vital, learning from them is the most important aspect and if done right your mistakes can be used as stepping stones to your success.

listen to your heart but also don't allow your heart to lead you back to the person who betrayed you.

don't repeat the same mistakes twice, no matter how tempting it may be, don't fall for the same trick twice. so, let go of those silly mistakes you've been holding onto, let go of those past love mistakes and live your life freely.

leave the past in the past and enjoy these moments that God has blessed you with.

#0b1110

some people come  
as a lesson,  
nothing beyond that.

**undiluted**

truth is, they shouldn't try to  
change you if they claim to  
love you, they must accept you  
the way you are. they must accept  
the fact that you get a little bit  
mad sometimes and that you are  
not perfect.

they should try and make peace  
with the fact that you have done  
somethings over the years,  
things you are not comfortable  
talking about.

here's the hard truth, they shouldn't  
just look for perfect puzzles in you  
rather help you collect your broken  
pieces and a perfect picture by his  
grace.

and lastly, they shouldn't try to  
compare you to anyone, because  
there's no one like you. you are  
unique and if misunderstood you  
are a bad person.

be you, you're wonderful this way.  
let those who loves you come and  
enjoy every moment with you.

#0b1111

...and the flames never burnt  
me as much as they built me.

**betrayal**

it hurts to realize that the person  
you loved, trusted, and planned a  
future with wasn't the one meant  
for you. love can be a tricky thing  
and sometimes it doesn't work out  
the way we hoped it would.  
it's a heavy burden to bear, and it  
can leave you feeling broken and  
alone. but know that you are not  
alone. betrayal is a part of life, and  
it happens to the best of us. take  
this as an opportunity to grow, to  
learn from the experience,  
and to become a stronger and  
wiser person. remember that true  
love will find its way to you.  
keep your heart open, love yourself  
and don't let past hurts hold you  
back from experiencing the beauty  
and joy that life has to offer. you  
are worthy of love and happiness,  
and you will find it.

#0b10000

i see you, sitting in the  
dark and arguing  
with pain. your soul is  
tired and your mind  
is giving up, stay strong.

**pain**

i know it's tough to deal with the endless  
ache and discomfort that pain can bring.  
it can be hard to focus on anything else  
when you're in the midst of it. but know  
that you're not alone in this struggle. there  
are so many others who are also  
dealing with pain and its effects on their  
lives.

it's important to remember that you have  
the strength to get through this. you are  
stronger than the pain that's trying to bring  
you down. take a deep breath and try to  
focus on something positive.  
maybe it's a happy memory, a favorite  
song, or a loved one who brings you joy.  
whatever it is, hold onto it and let it be an  
inspiration of hope in the darkness.

never forget that pain is not a sign of  
weakness, but a sign of strength. it means  
you have been through something difficult  
and have come out on the other side.  
you have the power to overcome and  
thrive despite the pain. so, don't give up,  
keep fighting, and know that you are not  
alone.

#0b10001

love?  
i think that thing crippled  
her soul.

**people**

truth is, not everyone who's in  
your life is meant to be permanent,  
some are meant to be temporary.  
until we learn not to confuse this,  
we will always beg the wrong people  
to stay and let go of the right ones.

Sizwe Buthelezi

#0b10010

this time around,  
don't forget to be  
kind to yourself.

**battles**

some battles are not worth  
the fight, save your strength  
and yourself.  
find peace & move forward.

#0b10011

stop giving second chances  
to people who intentionally  
hurt you.

**choices**

i don't know, but i think  
we choose.

i think we choose whom  
to love unconditionally,  
whom to love regardless.

#0b10100

some scars are permanent,  
there's no going back.

**heart**

your heart, it was never  
meant to break.  
it was meant to bend, to  
maintain its shape.

Sizwe Buthelezi

#0b10101

take it easy, your heart is  
still healing.

**promises**

some poets promise  
you the moon,  
the sky and its stars.

i simply promise to  
be here,  
to never leave you.

#0b10110

with the right person,  
love is effortless,  
no need to try harder.

**self-blame**

stop blaming yourself, all you  
ever did was to love and  
there's nothing so humble and  
beautiful as that.

#0b10111

between yourself and others,  
i hope you choose yourself.

**apologies**

i'm sorry that you got betrayed  
by love that you thought was  
meant to stay forever.  
i'm also sorry that you gave all  
of your love yet you were never  
appreciated.

lastly, i want to say i'm sorry that  
you're bleeding, you will heal  
soon.

Sizwe Buthelezi

#0b11000

stop blaming your heart  
for loving wrong people.

**part of healing**

part of healing is when you're  
tired of missing them, but you  
still miss them anyway.

it is when you know they're  
gone but you still stay up late  
hoping they might text.

part of healing is accepting that  
they are gone and they're not  
coming back.

Sizwe Buthelezi

#0b11001

i hope your heart finds rest,  
you've been through a lot.

**chance**

if given another chance in  
life to start all over again,  
i'll hate those i hate, i'll love  
those i love and i'll hurt  
those i've hurt.

#0b11010

even though we were never  
meant to be, i'm still glad we  
met.

**hope**

i know it has not been easy,  
you had to learn to let go  
even though you wanted to  
hold on just a bit longer.

i hope you find a reason to  
smile again.

#0b11011

should've loved you  
better while you still  
cared.

**strangers**

it now feels like you and i are  
strangers,  
our love painted with dust  
already. i'm tired of missing  
you.

Sizwe Buthelezi

#0b11100

you will survive losing them.

**mistakes**

you are not here to be perfect,  
you are here to make mistakes.  
learn from them and become a  
better person.

#0b11101

i don't think we have found  
each other at the wrong time.

i think you came full of lessons.

**fake apology**

you know this, i loved you  
so much to leave.  
so, with every fake apology  
i stayed.

#0b11110

all the time spent without  
you, i died inside.

**land of the dead**

if the land of the dead  
could lend me your hand  
just one more time,  
i'd capture your beauty,  
in a jar and hold it to me  
every night. i miss you.

#0b11111

between your eyes and mine,  
there are two worlds too  
afraid to meet and a bunch of  
unspoken words left to answer  
for our damn sins.

can we then dance? through  
this dirty and a disappearing  
fog around us.

Sizwe Buthelezi

# poetry

(just random poems)

*lover!*

somedays i wonder what have  
i done to deserve you.

oh honey! get yourself closer,  
let me swallow the taste of your  
lips.

let me stay sanctified in your  
kiss.

*so, this is me*

so, this is me slowly grabbing  
myself and trying to let go of  
you one day at a time.  
this is me deleting every text  
you ever sent me, just learning  
to unlove you.

this is me begging my heart to  
let you go, you were never  
worth it. this is also me arguing  
with my mind to let go of you  
because you've always been  
fake.

this is me, talking to the betrayed  
me *"it's not fair but life goes on"*.  
this is me patiently begging my  
angels to stop being friends with  
your demons.

this is me, bleeding yet moving  
forward. this is me leaving a  
part of me behind because that's  
what you've always been to me.

this is me, missing you, but i'm  
not coming back.

*strangers*

we met once, danced once,  
“*you look familiar*” i said.

she smiled. “*we’ll meet again*”  
she said.

*can you?*

can you just wear less and  
allow these tired hands to  
journey?

can you just strip your  
soul layer by layer until it is  
fully naked?

can you just spread your  
arms wide and consume my  
unending desires of flesh  
like the sun swallows the  
morning dews?

can you just be this; a poem  
in my empty world.

*winter*

a sun to its cave,  
a night to its freedom,  
hibernal to my  
whisper, stars to my  
rescue.

here, i perish alone.

*2021-what happens after?*

what happens after the tongue  
licking, eternal soul exchange, lips  
slow battle, soft mouth conversations,  
hours and hours of soul deep kiss?

what happens after the soft moans,  
tired & gentle colliding skins, body  
worshipping, uncontrolled  
heavy breathings, slow deep strikes  
to the flesh by the flesh, sweaty and  
energy drained bodies?

what happens after we have drank  
the ocean and it's waves in this cup  
that we've prepared long before we  
came to be?

what happens after deep screams  
in lazy, rainy and heavenly-made days?

what happens after the yawning  
of the flesh has been fed and we're  
just there.

what's more? what comes after this?

with your ravishing looks and your  
unmatched intelligence, guide me  
to thy findings, to the fulfillment of  
my inquisitiveness.

*love tragedy*

take a stare at these hearts,  
ripped apart,  
lying in pieces,  
abandoned and bleeding.

only our dignity we are  
left with.

*what will become of us?*

what will become of us when  
painted with nothing but  
darkness and nobody recognizes  
us anymore?

what will become of us when our  
heroes are out for hiding and the  
gods of light deny us this hope?

what will become of us when one's  
mouth cannot utter love but hate  
and anger with passion?

what will become of us when days  
are mended with the screams of  
the young yelling for help that  
betrayed them?

what will become of us when the  
gods of darkness are unleashed?

we are in it not to perish but to  
drink from the cup of their wrath.

*evening sacrifice*

i have purposefully emptied  
myself for you.

willingly, i have prepared this  
heart of mine as your evening  
sacrifice.

to be useful and necessary.

*promises*

lover, promise me this;  
your heaven within heaven  
in the next life.

*your little things [poem challenge]*

at first, it was the way you leak  
yourself when you write, the  
way you paint your thoughts on  
the paper. how can one not fall  
in love?

then, your beautiful and satisfying  
voice, the way it paralyzes my  
demons with beauty each time  
you attempt to say my name.  
it is like a siren call or mermaids  
songs, it is flowing and pure.

sometimes i see you in my dreams,  
the way you throw your head  
back and hands up when you're  
frustrated.  
the feeling of warmth when you  
hug me goodbye, and the way your  
lips curl when you are thinking  
hard.

every little thing you do makes  
me fall in love with you.

*unuttered words*

so much words in  
your silence.  
so much unuttered  
within your smile.

your silence, a burden  
too heavy to carry.

i'm tired of waiting,  
i'm tired of loving  
you.

*cleansing*

lover, if love is a cleansing  
thing, then consider me  
pure and baptized in your  
simple kiss.

*lazy mornings*

3 am in the morning,  
a beer with a bit of  
cigarette after sex.

i'm still learning how  
to let you go.

*savior*

plenty of reasons  
to leave, one reason  
to stay.

i glance in your  
faultless eyes, i am  
soaked, i am saved.

*wonderer*

tied to your naked soul,  
lost in your simple grace.

a bed, coffee and your  
tiny skin is all i need to  
dissolve in your softness.

*angels*

of course, i didn't know how  
to love her.

at times she was an emotion  
covered in one simple smile.  
other days, just a naked flower  
in the merciful hands of the  
gods.

and me? i was just a boy too  
scared to dance with her angels

*bleeding love*

bleed on me until  
your scars melt away.  
here's my chest,  
flood it with tears until  
they dry out.

*creator*

undo me and do me  
again,  
the way you've always  
wanted me to be.

*a misfit*

judged and misunderstood.

teared apart by the hate  
burning in their eyes,  
bully me again and again.

i don't belong, just a misfit.

*memories*

a hole in a wall, a fire to  
fill it.

a story to be told.

we were here once, filled  
this place with heat.

her

(dedicated part 0b1)

**chaos**

before you love her, you should  
know she comes in many forms.

sometimes as a chaos, stubbornness  
and naivety.

somedays as a love poem,  
morning coffee and a sweet melody.

other days as nothing but a tornado  
unleashed, a true definition of  
erosion. don't even try to calm her  
storms.

she wanted to love again,  
she was healing, but the  
healing process took forever.

**maybe**

maybe she's not being difficult,  
she just wants to be sure that if  
she falls for you, you'll catch her.

maybe she's not being dramatic,  
love and lust are both painted  
with the same color these days.

maybe she just wants to be sure  
that she's giving in to pure love  
not lust.

maybe she wants to be alone for  
sometime before she can start  
loving again.

she comes as a package,  
her demons and her angels.

# dear you

[random letters ...[dedications]]

Sizwe Buthelezi

dedication\_0b1 [hopes]

dear you,

i know how hard it is for you to trust someone right now, especially those who seek to find a way towards the walls you've built within to protect yourself.

but a time will come when you'll have to love again. when that time comes, i hope you find love that is not in competition with anyone but loves at its own pace and hunger for a simple morning kiss. love that does not strive to be perfect and accepted by society, rather seeks to be original and true to its gods.

i hope you find love that is simply trying. it is not faultless, but it is just a simple love fighting to make it every day. love that does not seek approval from the opinions of other people because it never needed approval in the first place.

i hope you find love that will gently stare you in the eye and slowly whisper to your heart 'i see forever in you'

regards

*sizwe*

dedication\_0b10 [depression]

dear you,

i hope you're doing well. i read the letter you sent me about depression, that sometimes you feel empty.

somedays you feel like the earth could just open up and swallow you. you said sometimes you listen to broken and sad songs just to get the feeling of belonging and swim away your sorrows. i have to admit, i do that sometimes, in fact almost every day. i listen to sad songs just to get high in them. i watch action movies just to distract my mind sometimes.

one day at a time champ, you will be fine. try and see beauty in everything. try and see positive in every negative, you are just doing fine.

regards

*sizwe*

dedication\_0b11 [moving on]

dear you,

when he called, you rushed to the phone forgetting if anything around you existed. whenever you heard his voice, your inner demons obeyed. you loved him not because he was handsome and innocent, of which he was. you loved him because he completed your love story. when you had a rough day, he was the first one to know. you didn't mind losing yourself in a process of loving him because that's what love is all about, immersing ourselves within each other.

however, he didn't see things the same way. he said he loved you but all you could feel was the weight of a dead relationship you had to carry all by yourself. if you never texted him first, he never texted you at all. if you never wrote i love you, he never wrote i love you too. if you never called him first, he stayed weeks without talking to you. it was a one-way relationship and you didn't mind because you were blinded by the flames of fire you felt for him.

you thought you had to love hard even though he made it so hard for you to love him. one day he left, destroyed your world and completely crushed any hope you had of finding true love. you have tried to keep it together but you have failed. you wish to hate him, but that's not you. he painted your soul with permanent scars and broken love memories.

it kills you that you had to invest all your energy and time while he invested nothing. he completely made you fall for him with no intentions of catching you. you are moving on, that's all that matters.

regards

*sizwe*

Sizwe Buthelezi

dedication\_0b100[life]

dear you

i hope you're doing well. i heard that lately you have been struggling to keep up with the constant demands of this life and that it all seems unfair. i also have not figured out much about his crazy life but i can tell you this though, keep your head high and stay humble. in your worst moments don't lose hope but be careful, hope can be a very dangerous thing. so, whatever life throws at you, don't let it break you. don't give up. i love you and you're not alone.

regards

*sizwe*

# appreciation post

to those who never left,  
they always dug for  
a reason to stay.

to those who paid a price  
for loving us.

to those who saw light in  
demons like us.

to those bastards who are  
always there for us no  
matter how many times we  
have tried to push them  
away.

to those who offered us  
a shoulder to lean on,  
even though they were  
bleeding from within.

to those who accepted us,  
and made friends with  
our demons.

to those who are brave  
enough to kiss our  
storms.

to those souls who are  
patient with us,  
we're still learning  
to love.

to those harmless angels  
who gave us enough  
second chances before  
walking away.

.....

Sizwe Buthelezi

“you are worth fighting for”  
~ Sizwe Buthelezi

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